



TOWN OF HOLDEN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Jacquelyn M. Kelly
Town Manager

October 14, 2016

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Jacquelyn M. Kelly,
Town Manager

SUBJECT: *Town Manager's Update*

- 1. Upgrade to Town Bond Rating** – Moody's Investors' Service has announced that their bond rating for Holden has been upgraded to Aa2 from Aa3. The Aa2 rating reflects the Town's moderately-sized tax base, healthy financial position marked by sound reserves and liquidity levels, according to the Credit Opinion issued on October 4, 2016.

Moody's is a separate rating agency from Standard and Poors, which, as previously reported, also increased the Town's credit rating. Credit ratings generally relate to the economic area, the tax base, and the financial operations and strength. As Town Manager, I am pleased that Moody's has upgraded our rating as it reflects positively on the management of the Town and the attention and acumen we apply to administering our financial resources. I would like to thank the Town's financial management team including Sharon Lowder, Treasurer/Collector, and Lori Rose, Town Accountant. Also, thanks are due to our Department Head team; their role in the fiscal health of our Town cannot be understated. The upgrade in our Credit Rating is largely due to their skilled management of our financial systems and other fiscal and human resources.

Information [X]

Vote []

Signature []

- 2. Early Voting Schedule – November 8, 2016 Election** – For the first time, there will be opportunities for voters to cast their votes before Election Day. Enclosed is a schedule for early voting which will be held from October 24 to November 4, 2016 at the Town Clerk's Office, 1196 Main Street, Holden. Voters will be able to go to the Town Clerk's Office and cast their ballots in a voting booth. The early voting will be available during the Town Clerk's normal business hours as follows:

10/24/16	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	10/31/16	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
10/25/16	8 a.m. to 7 p.m.	11/1/16	8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
10/26/16	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	11/2/16	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
10/27/16	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	11/3/16	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
10/28/16	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.	11/4/16	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

More information is available on the Web site www.holdenma.gov.

The last day to register to vote is October 19, 2016 for the November 8th Election. The Town Clerk's Office will be open until 8 p.m. that day. Absentee ballots are available and the Clerk's Office should be contacted by anyone interested in obtaining one.

Information [X]

Vote []

Signature []

- 3. South Main Street Construction and Detours --** Currently, the contractor performing the work on South Main Street is planning night work for Sunday night, October 23rd. Work is expected to begin around 7 p.m. and will likely continue through 5 a.m. This work will be taking place between the Main Street and Shrewsbury Street intersection and the first Zottoli Road and Main Street intersection just past the Providence & Worcester Railroad bridge.

Main Street under the railroad bridge will be closed to through traffic during that time. However, we are establishing a suitable detour which will be noticed on town electronic signs and there will be detail officers. We will also be sending a CodeRED message to residents and posting the traffic advisory on the Web site and Facebook.

Information [X]

Vote []

Signature []

- 4. Composting and Brush Chipping –** The DPW will be offering Saturday residential composting and brush chipping events through December as follows:

October 22
October 29
November 5

November 12
November 19
December 3

Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., weather permitting. Composting materials will be accepted at the former Landfill (River Street), and brush chipping will be done at the DPW Adams Road facility due to the Asian Longhorned Beetle quarantine area. More information including restrictions is available on the Town's Web site www.holdenma.gov.

Information [X]

Vote []

Signature []

- 4. Cyclical Assessors' Visits –** The Massachusetts Department of Revenue requires every town Assessor to visit each parcel in the community every nine years to verify the interior and exterior information (for assessing purposes). Rosemary Scully, Principal Assessor, reports that each homeowner in the area to be visited by our Data Collector receives a postcard (see attached) explaining the visit and requesting to set up an appointment. If the owner is not home, the Data Collector leaves a green card which asks that the Assessor's Office be contacted.

Information [X]

Vote []

Signature []

- 5. District Budget Roundtable** – Enclosed is a copy of a notice from Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools, announcing the District's annual Budget Roundtable which will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Curriculum Center at the Central District Office. Town Selectboard Chairs, Finance Committee Chairs, and Town Administrators are invited to attend.

Information [X]

Vote []

Signature []

- 6. Self Defense Training** – The Recreation Department and Holden Police Department will be offering Women's Basic Self Defense Training on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at the Recreation Department Studio. Anyone interested in enrolling should check the Town's Web site at www.holdenma.gov or call the Recreation Department at 508-829-0263.

Information [X]

Vote []

Signature []

- 7. HPD Events** – The Holden Police Department has participated in the following events and exercises recently:

- **Un-announced High School Lock Down** – On Tuesday, October 11, 2016, there was a security training exercise at the Wachusett Regional High School which was very successful. Thanks go to Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools, Bill Beando, Principal, and other participating public safety and law enforcement personnel including the State Police.
- **Opioid Symposium** – On Wednesday, October 12, 2016, the District Attorney's Office, Holden Police and the Sheriff's Department hosted a Symposium and Panel Discussion on the Opioid crisis at Wachusett Regional High School. Other officials from the Superintendent's Office and Principal's Office were also present to discuss addiction and the resources available in our area to support recovery and address this pressing issue. Several medical organizations participated as well including UMass-Memorial Health Care and Adcare. The Symposium was well attended and provided valuable information and support for all present.
- **Bank Security Workshop** – The Holden Police Department hosted a workshop for area banking managers and personnel concerning bank security. The meeting was held on Thursday, October 13, 2016 as part of the Police Department's outreach program and support for our local business community.

Information [X]

Vote []

Signature []

- 8. Best of Friends Harvest Fair** – The Council on Aging will hold its annual *Best of Friends Harvest Fair* on Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Holden Senior Center. There will be professional crafters, senior crafters, and coffee and luncheon fare including homemade soups, desserts, and other goodies. A donation of a non-perishable item for the Wachusett Food Pantry is appreciated.

Information [X]

Vote []

Signature []

Town Manager's Update 10-14-16

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions about these matters.

Jacquelyn M. Kelly
Town Manager

Cc: Department Heads